(c) No, Sir.

(d) No specific programmes have been drawn up for manpower training in the field of deep seabed mining. However, a project to develop a mining system has been taken up at the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur, which also helps in training of engineers.

Reversion of SC/ST Under "" Secretaries

2454. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI V. NARAYANA-SAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstar red Question 3268 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December, 199-1 and State:

It

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of SC/ST Section Officers Promoted as Under Secretaries on regular basis with effect from 4th December, 1991 to fill the reserved quota with reference to 460 existing vacancies in Grade-I of CSS have been reverted to the posts of Section Officers with effect from 30th January, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for reversion when all the SC/ST officers were promoted on the basis of 40-Point Roster and by following the instructions regarding extension of the zone of consideration to make promotions against the quota reserved for SCs/STs with reference to 460 existing vacancies in the Grade; and

(d) what steps have Government taken to restore the promotion of affected SC/ST Under Secretaries against their quota in 460 existing vacancies in Grade-I of CSS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE: IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PEN SIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) During the hearing of a contempt petition against the order issued on 4.12.1991, the Supreme Court directed that the eligibility list of November, 1987 and not that of March, 1987 should be the basis for promotion. The Government was advised that to purge itself of contempt, promotions should be made strictyl according to the ranking in the said eligibility list of November, 1987. Accordingly revised orders were issued on 30.1.1992 making promotions strictly according to the ranking in the eligibility list of November, 1987. In this process, Section Officers belonging' to hthe Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who were junior, though promoted earlier on 4.12.1991, were left out except those whose names appeared in the eligibility list of November, 1987.

(d) The Supreme Court on 31.1.92 directed that for any modification of . the interim order of 20.9.91, a separate application should be filed. Accordingly, an interim application has been filed in the Supreme Court praying for permission to promote SC/ST officers against the quota reserved for them. A request for early hearing has also been made. Further action will be taken on the basis of the orders of the Supreme Court.

Lowering the Retirement age of Central Government Employees

2455. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(al whether the Government had decided to decrease the retirement age of Central Government employees; and

(b)the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA)- (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.